

# *Alaska Trauma Registry Communiqué*

State of Alaska  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Division of Public Health  
Community Health and Emergency Medical Services

Calendar Year 2003, No. 2

## **Data Driven Programs**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a major cause of death and disability in Alaska. A survivor of a TBI often faces prolonged rehabilitation and sometimes life-long care. The costs of TBI are huge physically, emotionally and financially.

Alaska has participated in the Centers for Disease Control Multi-State Traumatic Brain Injury Surveillance Project since 1997. In the four years of data collection for this project, Alaska registered 2,061 TBIs, or over 500 per year. This accounts for all TBIs that resulted in the death or hospital admission of the patient.

In looking at these data, we are able to tell who is at greatest risk and for which injuries. Subsequently, it is possible to identify and implement programs and educational opportunities specially targeted to prevent the injuries that occur most frequently.

These activities are possible through the collaborative efforts of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Injury Prevention Program and other sections of the Division of Public Health, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Alaska Native Regional Health Corporation Injury Prevention Programs, the Alaska Injury Prevention Center, Alaska Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters, and the Alaska Highway Safety Office.



# *Traumatic Brain Injury, Alaska, 1996-99*

## *Rates per 100,000*

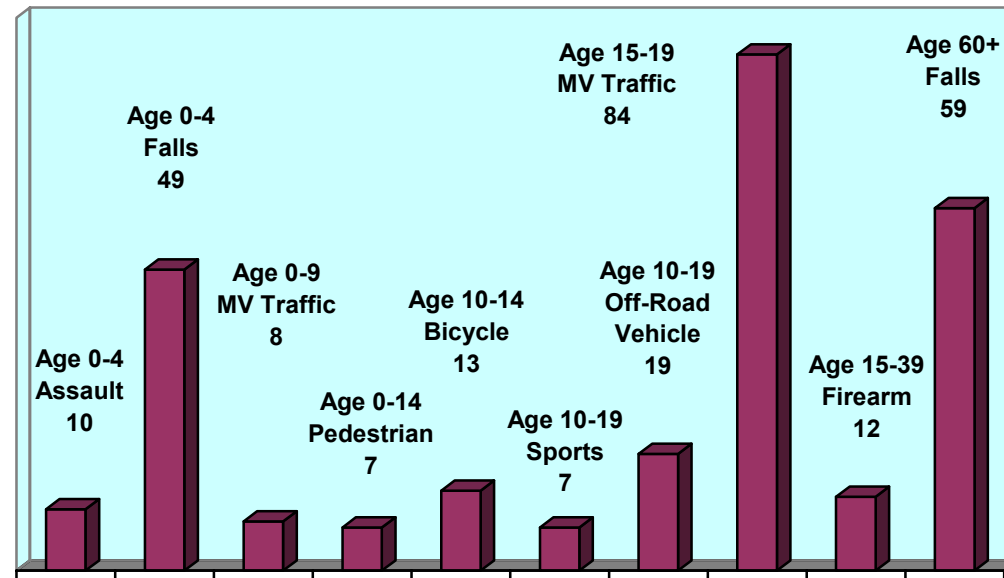
*Injury Prevention in a Bag Program* provides safety devices and education to Healthy Families home visitors, to pass on to the families they work with.

*I Got Caught:* Police officers “catch” middle school kids riding a bike with their helmets on and “ticket” them with a movie pass.

*Concussion Management in Sports* taught by sports physician and columnist Jay Caldwell at the annual EMS Symposium.

*The Force Be With You*, a one-day class teaching teens the physics and consequences of car crashes – coming to Juneau soon.

Brad Gessner, pediatrician and epidemiologist for the Section of Family Health, describes risk factors for infant abuse in *The Incidence of Infant Physical Abuse in Alaska*.



*YAKTRAX* prescriptions for elderly patients in the Kotzebue area promoting the use of these flexible cord shoe slip-ons for fall prevention.

*Child Passenger Safety Program* distributes and installs safety seats and booster seats, and trains CPS technicians.

*Reflector tape* in various shapes and designs are ironed on while you wait – great addition to any event.

*Snow Machine Safety Event Day How-To Manual* available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Injury Prevention Program.

*Gun Storage Cabinets* distributed to rural homes after research shows them to be an effective injury prevention intervention in the Bristol Bay area.